

GET INTO



THE WORD

January - April





2nd Period - January 8 through April 9, 2017

(No classes on Sunday, April 16)

SUNDAY CLASSES

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

Pastor Gil McDonald

Sundays

9:30-10:30 AM

Concordia Hall

Galatians is a letter of love addressed from Paul to congregations in Galatia. This is no romantic love letter from a longing lad, but the passionate/compassionate letter from a pastor to his troubled people. The letter seems to be as much from Paul's heart as his letter to the Romans is from his mind. As we read and study this letter together, we will see Paul as a loving spiritual leader, sick at heart that the people he nurtured in the faith have gone astray, angered at those who torment them with untruths and who lie about him, frustrated that his spiritual children cannot seem to cling to the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ alone. It shines the Gospel clearly, brilliantly, like a jewel. Through it the Holy Spirit calls the Galatians, and us, back to Christ as the center of our faith.

As we study Galatians, our journey will take us through (1) Bad news vs. good news - i.e. we are sinful, condemned, and helpless to "fix" our situation but through faith we are made right with God by Jesus' sacrifice for us. (2) We will seek to understand the conflict with a group named Judaizers, and how they affected Paul's initial life changing message of salvation in Jesus alone. (3) We will view faith in the Old Testament alongside the New Testament people and see the same promise of Messiah's coming, giving salvation apart from works of the Law. (4) We will understand the need and use of the Law in our lives and God's gift of it, and our freedom from its curse because of faith in Jesus. (5) We will gain an understanding of what it means to be "sons of God" and the treasure of our freedom in Jesus. (6) We will look in depth at what it means to be "free in Christ" and what it means to "walk in the Spirit" in our daily lives. (7 & 8) We will look at Paul's final encouragements to the Galatians and us, to stand fast in the knowledge that we are not made right with God by what we do, but by faith in Jesus Christ. We will also tie up any remaining discussions.

CITIZENS OF TWO KINGDOMS

Roy Kaiser

Sundays

9:30-10:30 AM

Room 101

This class is a 6-week DVD/Discussion series which discusses our roles in the Biblical teaching of the "Two Kingdoms": the "Kingdom of Grace" and the "Kingdom of Power", under which a Christian lives and functions.

Dr. Dale Meyer and Rev. Greg Seltz, distinguished Lutheran theologians, will address these questions: What are these kingdoms, How can Christians serve both, How do they intersect, Why America is NOT a Christian nation, In today's culture is our Government encroaching on our religious freedoms? If so, how does a Christian respond? Class runs January 8 - February 12.

THE JEWISH ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY / EXPLORING THE JEWISH ROOTS OF JESUS

Various Leaders

Sundays

9:30-10:30 AM

Concordia Hall

This DVD/Discussion series will look in depth at the history, traditions, and background of the first peoples to follow Jesus as Messiah, and how those "roots" influenced many of the teachings we see in the New Testament Gospels. This series will culminate with a guest speaker and Seder demonstration. Class runs March 5 - April 9.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Various teachers & helpers	Sundays	9:30-10:30 AM	School Classrooms
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St. John Lutheran Church offers a weekly Sunday School that meets at 9:30 AM in the school classroom area of our building. Sunday School classes are offered for all children of age 3 (if potty-trained) through 6th grade. Your children will have opportunity to learn about Jesus and his love from caring volunteers. They will have fellowship with other Christian kids and enjoy a small snack (we serve pre-packaged Rice Krispie treats during class). No registration is required and there are no attendance requirements. We break for holidays throughout the year, as announced in the *Sunday Connection*. We really look forward to seeing your children, and we are so excited to teach them how loved by God they are!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Steve Wilson	Sundays	9:30-10:30 AM	School Music Room
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Our 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will continue participating in Sunday confirmation instruction which will include the study of the Old Testament, the Book of Acts, and other topics. Steve Wilson, Director of Child & Family Ministry, serves as the instructor. Small group discussion and specific parental involvement at home are key parts of the class. All 7th and 8th grade students and parents are welcome!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Steve Wilson and Pastors	Sundays	9:30-10:30 AM	Gymnasium
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The sacrament of communion is an important part of a Christian's walk with Jesus. First Communion class is offered for those families interested in having their child (6th grade and older) take communion. Parents will need to attend the class sessions with their child and work together to decide if their child is ready to receive the sacrament. For more information, please contact Director of Child & Family Ministry Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006. Please sign up for the class on the St. John website. Click on Discover/Junior High. Classes are March 5, 12, 19, 26.

LIGHTHOUSE - JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY 6th-8th GRADES

Steve Wilson	Sundays	6:00-8:00 PM	Luther Hall
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Lighthouse is a place where Junior High students can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus. Our activities include students in grades 6-8, and all are welcome! For more information, please contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Melissa Hammett	Sundays	9:30-10:30 AM	Youth Room
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High School Youth are in need of MORE - more Word, more Jesus, more truth. Come and meet for Bible Study in the Youth Room on Sundays at 9:30 AM. We are blessed by another opportunity to get together in the Word. Sunday morning Bible Study happens in addition to our Sunday night Youth meetings. See you there! For more information, contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Melissa Hammett	Sundays	6:00-8:00 PM	Youth Room or Offsite
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We love Jesus and we love each other! Our Sunday evening gathering is the place we put that into action! Our group is open to students from all high schools in our amazing community. We talk,

laugh, pray, work through hard stuff, do fun stuff and learn to serve it up! Join us! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES

THE ONE CLASS (New Member Class)

Pastor Marc & Pastor Steve Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM Luther Hall

Maybe you're new to St. John School or maybe you have been worshiping as a guest and finally feel led to make St. John in Rochester your official church home. Whether transferring from another church or brand new to the Christian faith, The ONE Class is for you...and now is the time! This 9-week action-packed journey through God's Word will help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! Class will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall (near the church sanctuary). Childcare is provided in the nursery. To be added to our winter class list, please contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. Begins January 23.

LIFELIGHT

Carol Kahler (coordinator) and Various Leaders

This is an in-depth study where lesson preparation is necessary. Classes meet weekly throughout the year. The Book of Acts will be studied this term, as we learn how the apostles took the Gospel of Christ to the nations and how that witness continues today. "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Come and join in on the discussion.

Mondays	1:30 PM	Mary Martha Room
Tuesdays	7:00 PM	Mary Martha Room
Wednesdays	9:00 AM	Concordia Hall

BIBLE BASICS

Jan Boldt Tuesdays 9:30-11:00 AM Mary Martha Room

Where is the book of Haggai? Which half is the Old Testament? What are the gospels? To many, just sitting in a class when someone asks everyone to turn to Matthew 23:12 can cause panic! This class is designed to help you get acquainted with book titles, where they are, how to find them, and everything basic. Child care is provided. Begins on January 17.

FRIDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

Jim Boldt Fridays 7:00 PM Luther Hall

This year we are studying The Truth Project. We live in such a diverse society, and each person carries a learned philosophy of what they've been raised to believe is true. But as Pontius Pilate asked of Jesus "What is truth?" The Truth Project is all about understanding what views are being disseminated in the political, scientific, and educational realms of our world, and how we can effectively speak the eternal truth found in God's Word in contrast to a world without hope. Some topics in the series are: What is Truth? / Philosophy and Ethics / Science / History / Sociology, and many more. We usually meet two Fridays each month, with exact dates appearing in the *Sunday Connection*.

VISUAL FAITH (Formerly called Bible Journaling)

Candice Schwark 3rd Saturdays 1:00-4:00 PM Home studio of Candi Schwark

Using a few art supplies, Bibles and notebooks, our journaling will be based on various themes. No art experience is necessary. Bring a composition notebook, pen, pencil, colored pencils, good

eraser and your Bible for journaling.....and a friend or two! You may also bring a sack lunch or snack for yourself. Third Saturday of each month at Candice Schwark's home studio beginning January 21. Please contact Candice Schwark at candice@mac.com or 248-652-9449 to register, so that materials are prepared for you. You may join a session at any time.

GRIEFSHARE Saturdays (No current session scheduled) 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Church Library
If you've lost a loved one and wonder if the feelings, frustrations, hurts, and loneliness you're experiencing is just you or whether others are going through the same things - then this study is a journey you need to be a part of. Using video, discussion, and prayer you will meet others with the same emotions and hardships who are trying to work through the grieving process. For more information, please contact Linda Baroli at 248-895-0310. Classes will be scheduled based on interest.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

THE 12 MINOR PROPHETS

Dan McCallum 1st and 3rd Mondays 7:00-8:30 AM Church Library
Our study takes a look at the 12 minor prophets in the Old Testament. While these books are minor in length, they are major in the truths they teach, including: pointing to the coming Messiah, the majesty of God, courage and hope, injustice and judgment, trusting and loving God, and many other spiritual precepts. We are currently studying Zechariah and the eight visions provided to the prophet by the Angel of the Lord – a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. The emphasis is on reading, understanding and discussing the application of God's Word to our lives, the community and the World. Bible Study experience is not required.

70 GREATEST EVENTS IN THE BIBLE

John Fedototszkin 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10:00-11:30 AM Church Library
Feel free to drop in as your schedule permits. For more information, please contact John at 248-375-0832 or sherryjohnf@aol.com.

BIBLES AND BASKETBALL

Kevin Drummelsmith Saturdays 8:00-10:00 AM Gymnasium
Here is an opportunity to get into God's Word, play some basketball, and promote the ideals of Christian brotherhood. This group of men meets every Saturday morning through March 25. This is open to men young and older alike – the more the merrier! For more information, please contact Kevin Drummelsmith at kevin.drummelsmith@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

THE PEW SISTERS

Sue Wood 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM Home of Sue Wood
This Bible study for women "goes and tells what God has done" in the lives of real women in the church today. The goal is to encourage and build up the faith of our Christian sisters. Every woman sitting in the pew has a story to share of God's faithfulness in her life, and women love to hear a good story and to delight in the sisterhood of believers. Come join Sue and the Pew Sisters for Bible Study, fellowship, prayerful support and good discussion. For more information, please contact Sue at 248-651-7028 or woodsbs7@yahoo.com.

Pat Hofmeister	3 rd Tuesdays	7:00 PM	Participants' Homes
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ENTRUSTED by Beth Moore

We were never meant to take this journey of faith alone or in secret. God has entrusted us with the great and mighty gift of the Gospel, something too precious and life-giving to keep to ourselves. In this 6-session Bible study, Beth will encourage you to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. This DVD/Book study also includes a workbook with 5 days of individual study. The workbook may be purchased at a cost of \$13 on the first night of class, if notification is given in advance. Please bring your Bible to class. Please contact Sue Stingu at suestingu@gmail.com or (248) 321-0572 for information or to register for the workbook. All women of any age are welcome.

Kathy Dork/Sue Boes/Jamie Rawcliffe	Wednesdays	1:00-3:00 PM	Concordia Hall
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MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)

Julie Halstead	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays	9:00-11:15 AM	Luther Hall
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St. John offers two MOPS groups. The Monday group meets on the second Monday of the month from 9:00-11:15 AM and the Thursday group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 9:00-11:15 AM. The Monday group is a small group with limited childcare, while the Thursday group has small group discussion tables within a larger group setting, and includes a MOPPETS program from children newborn through kindergarten. The Monday group resumes on January 9 and the Thursday group resumes on January 12. All moms of young children are welcome!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Halstead at julesky05@yahoo.com for the Thursday group or Danielle Amo at danielleamo@ymail.com for the Monday group.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CLASS

Peter Harris

Tuesdays

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Room 128

As an extension of our International Friendship Center, which offers ESL (English as a Second Language) classes where participants from over 42 countries over the years have met to improve English skills and learn life skills in an American setting, interested individuals join together to learn more about the love of Jesus in a loving and caring environment. The Bible class immediately precedes the ESL class every Tuesday. For more information, please contact Peter Harris at 248-651-7532.

POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) BIBLE STUDY

Karim Musa

(Dates and times TBD)

Room 128

POBLO is a Christian organization working to transform the lives of those of differing faiths who have never been allowed to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, found in the Bible (the Book). Participants are met by those fluent in their own native language in order to communicate on a one-to-one level the eternal love of Jesus. For more information, please contact Karim Musa at karim@poblo.org or 716- 381-1301.

